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(71) Applicants (for all designated States except US):
K.U.LEUVEN RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT [BE/BE]; Groot Begijnhof, Benedenstraat 59, B-3000 Leuven (BE). **GILEAD SCIENCES, INC.** [US/US]; 333 Lakeside Drive, Foster City, CA 94404 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **NEYTS, Johan** [BE/BE]; Heidebergstraat 278, B-3010 Kessel-Lo (BE). **PÜRSTINGER, Gerhard** [AT/AT]; Roseggerstrasse 12, A-6020 Innsbruck (AT). **DE CLERCQ, Erik** [BE/BE]; Parklaan 9, B-3360 Lovenjoel (BE).

(74) Agents: **BIRD, William, E. et al.**; Bird Goën & Co, Klein Dalenstraat 42A, B-3020 Winksele (BE).

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— of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv)) for US only

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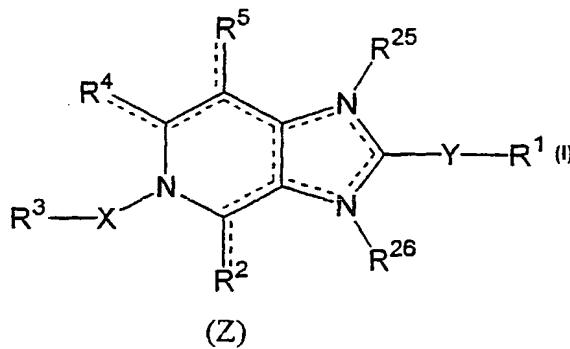
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(88) Date of publication of the international search report:

18 March 2004

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: VIRAL INHIBITORS



(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to a pharmaceutical composition for the treatment or prevention of viral infections comprising as an active principle at least one imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine derivative having the general formula (Z): (formula). The invention also relates to processes for the preparation of compounds according to the invention having above mentioned general formula and their use as a medicine or to treat or prevent viral infections.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Internal	Application No
PCT/BE 03/00117	

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 C07D471/04 A61K31/437 A61P31/12 // (C07D471/04, 235:00,
221:00)

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 C07D A61K A61P

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, CHEM ABS Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	GB 2 158 440 A (ERBA FARMITALIA) 13 November 1985 (1985-11-13) page 4, line 3 -page 7; claims 1,9 ---	1
A	DATABASE CAPLUS 'Online! CHEMICAL ABSTRACTS SERVICE, COLUMBUS, OHIO, US; YUTILOV, YU. M. ET AL: "Synthesis and antiviral activity of spinaceamine" retrieved from STM Database accession no. 110:165603 XP002265211 abstract & KHIMIKO-FARMATSEVTICHESKII ZHURNAL, vol. 23, no. 1, 1989, pages 56-9, --- -/-	1

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

16 December 2003

Date of mailing of the international search report

05/01/2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl.
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Alfaro Faus, I

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPQRT

Internat	Application No
PCT/BE 03/00117	

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	DATABASE CAPLUS 'Online! CHEMICAL ABSTRACTS SERVICE, COLUMBUS, OHIO, US; HORVATH, A. ET AL.: "Preparation of sunstituted nitrogen-containing heterocyclic compounds" retrieved from STN Database accession no. 132:222537 XP002265212 RN=261379-92-4 & HU 78 019 A (HORVATH) 28 May 1999 (1999-05-28) ---	7
X	WO 99 27929 A (MERCK) 10 June 1999 (1999-06-10) example 4 (6) ---	7
X	WO 96 11192 A (SEARLE) 18 April 1996 (1996-04-18) page 207, example 358c ---	7
X	WO 96 12703 A (SEARLE) 2 May 1996 (1996-05-02) examples 11,18 ---	7
X	US 5 302 601 A (KHANAL ISH K ET AL) 12 April 1994 (1994-04-12) examples ---	7
X	EP 0 344 414 A (SEARLE & CO) 6 December 1989 (1989-12-06) examples ---	7
X	WO 95 16687 A (ABBOTT LAB) 22 June 1995 (1995-06-22) examples ---	7
P,X	HISASHI AKAMATSU ET AL.: "New efficient route for solid-phase synthesis of benzimidazole derivatives" JOURNAL OF COMBINATORIAL CHEMISTRY., vol. 4, no. 5, 2002, pages 475-483, XP002265210 AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY, WASHINGTON., US ISSN: 1520-4766 pages 479, 480, compounds 15,16(21), 16(22) -----	7

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Inte

nal application No.
PCT/BE 03/00117

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.: 7-14 (in part)
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210

3. Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of Item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.

2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box I.2

Claims Nos.: 7-14 (in part)

Present claims 7-14 relate to an extremely large number of possible compounds. Support within the meaning of Article 6 PCT and/or disclosure within the meaning of Article 5 PCT is to be found, however, for only a very small proportion of the compounds claimed. In the present case, the claims so lack support, and the application so lacks disclosure, that a meaningful search over the whole of the claimed scope is impossible. Consequently, the search has been carried out for those parts of the claims which appear to be supported and disclosed, namely those parts relating to the compounds of formula I described in page 19, line 15 - page 22, line 9.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims, or parts of claims, relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

Internal Application No.

PCT/BE 03/00117

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